



I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO COME HERE TODAY.

GLAD TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, KEIICHI MAEBARA-SAN...



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE. I'M MAEBARA.

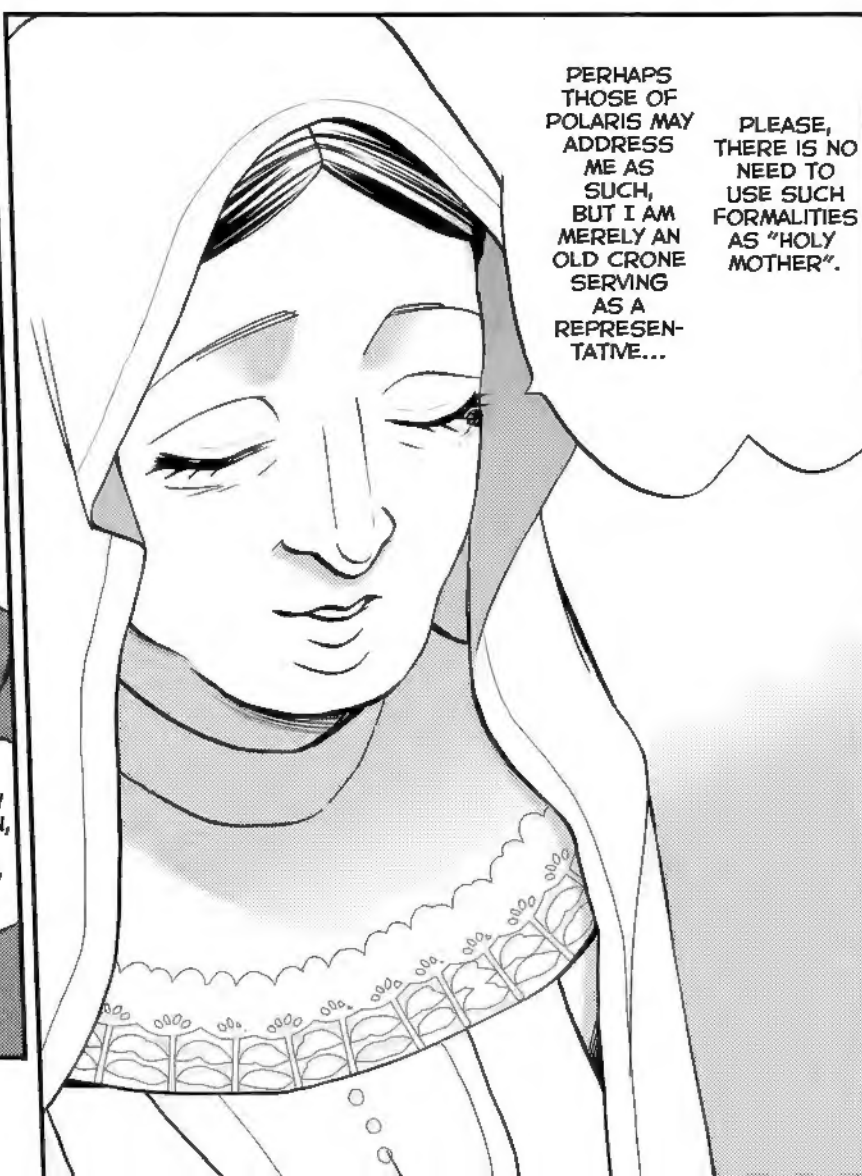
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE MET WITH YOUR PRESENCE, HOLY MOTHER.



YOUR VIRTUOUSITY MUST BE WHY THEY ALL IDOLIZE YOU...

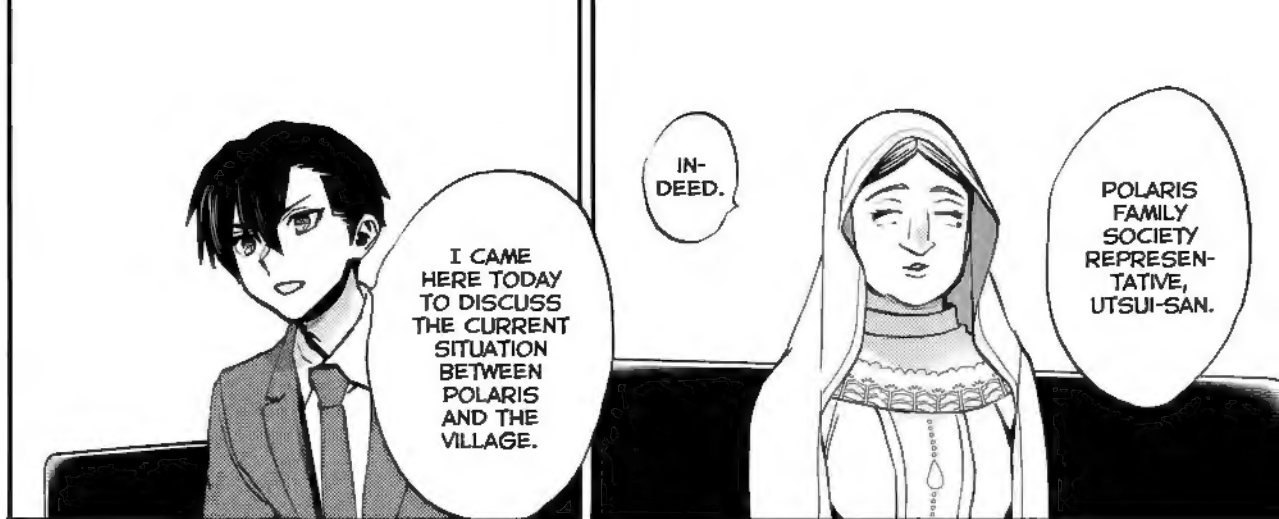
ALLOW ME TO ADDRESS YOU BY NAME...

NOW THEN, IF I MAY,



PERHAPS THOSE OF POLARIS MAY ADDRESS ME AS SUCH, BUT I AM MERELY AN OLD CRONE SERVING AS A REPRESENTATIVE...

PLEASE, THERE IS NO NEED TO USE SUCH FORMALITIES AS "HOLY MOTHER".



I CAME  
HERE TODAY  
TO DISCUSS  
THE CURRENT  
SITUATION  
BETWEEN  
POLARIS  
AND THE  
VILLAGE.

IN-  
DEED.

POLARIS  
FAMILY  
SOCIETY  
REPRESENTATIVE,  
UTSUI-SAN.

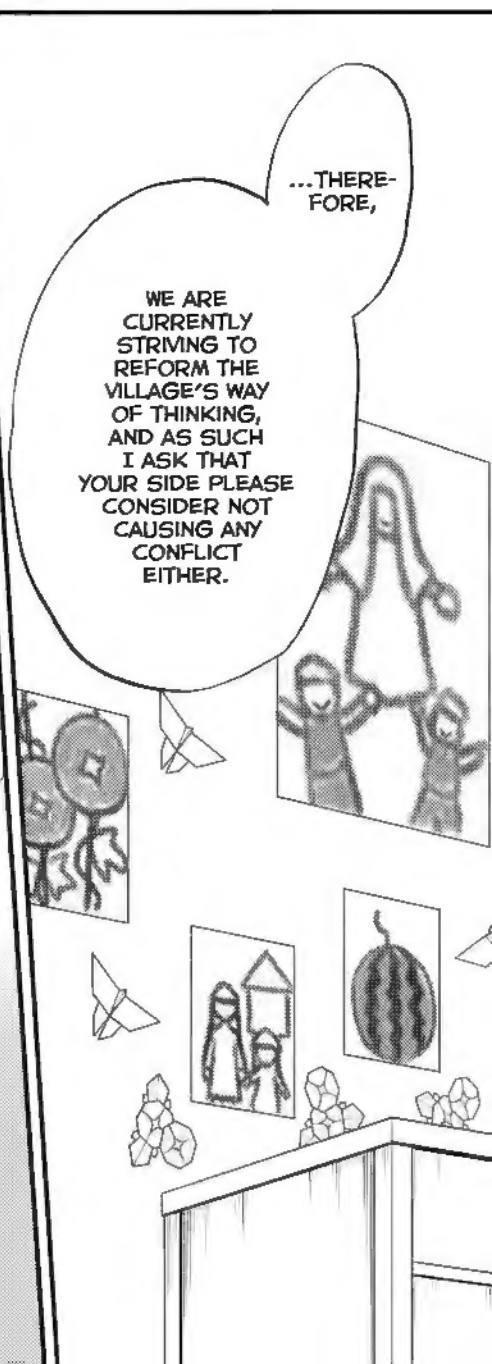


THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH FOR  
BEING SO  
CONSIDERATE  
OF US...



TROUBLE...?  
YOU MEAN  
PRIOR TO US  
SETTLING  
IN?

WHEN  
OUR PEOPLE  
MADE REMARKS  
THAT COULD BE  
CONSTRUED AS  
THREATENING  
TO THE TOWN  
COUNCIL?



...THERE-  
FORE,

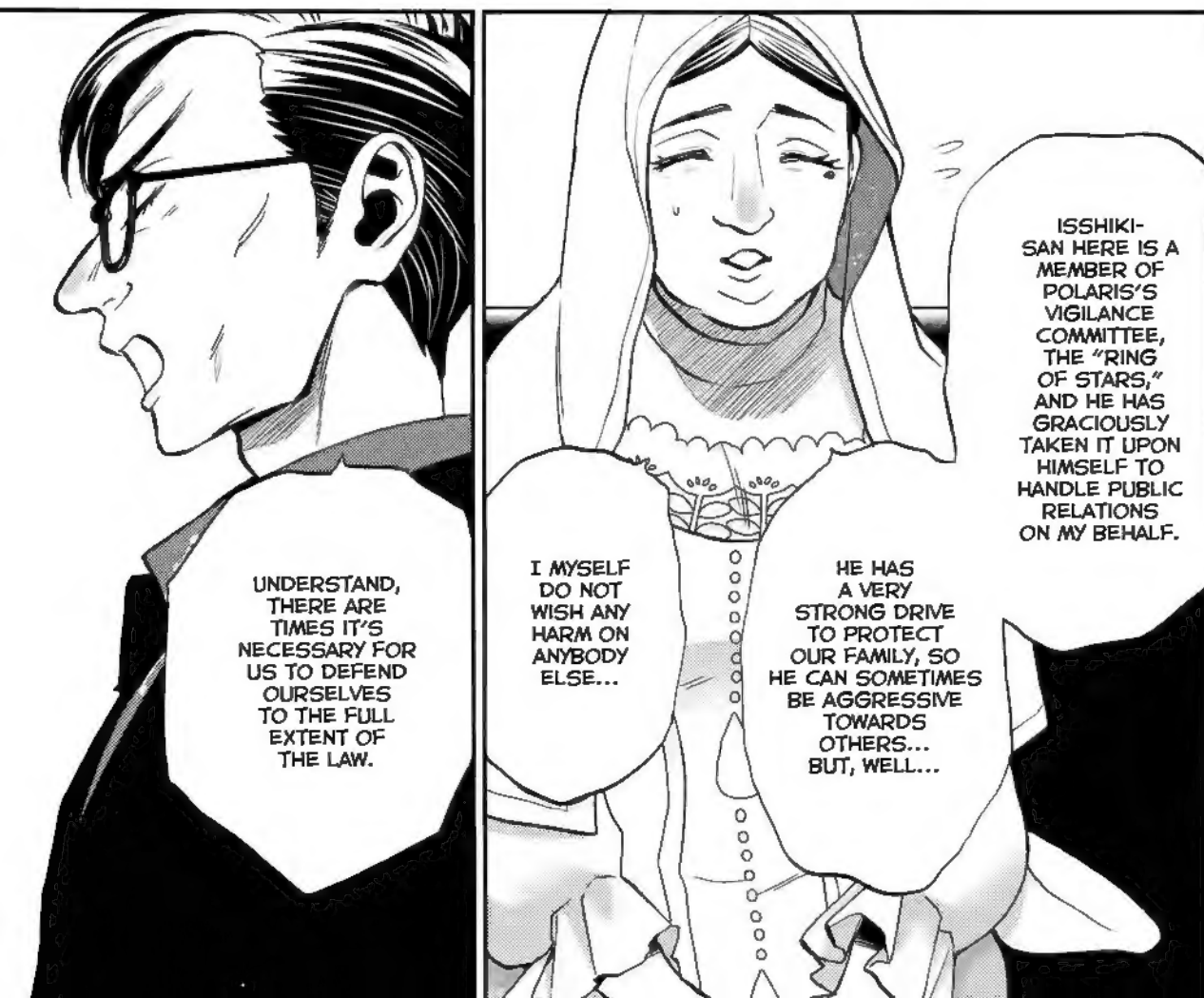
WE ARE  
CURRENTLY  
STRIVING TO  
REFORM THE  
VILLAGE'S WAY  
OF THINKING,  
AND AS SUCH  
I ASK THAT  
YOUR SIDE PLEASE  
CONSIDER NOT  
CAUSING ANY  
CONFLICT  
EITHER.



BUT  
WE WERE  
MERELY  
DEFENDING  
OURSELVES  
AGAINST THE  
ONE- SIDED  
EXTORTION  
BEING LEVIED  
AGAINST US BY  
THE TOWN COUNCIL...

WE  
HAVE NO  
INTENTION OF  
ACTUALLY  
DOING  
ANYTHING  
OF THE  
SORT.

IT'S TRUE.  
IN RESPONSE  
TO PRESSURE  
FROM THE  
TOWN COUNCIL,  
I THREATENED  
THAT ALL OF  
POLARIS  
COULD JOIN THE  
TOWN COUNCIL  
OURSELVES,  
AND JEOPARDIZE  
THE NEXT MAYORAL  
ELECTION.



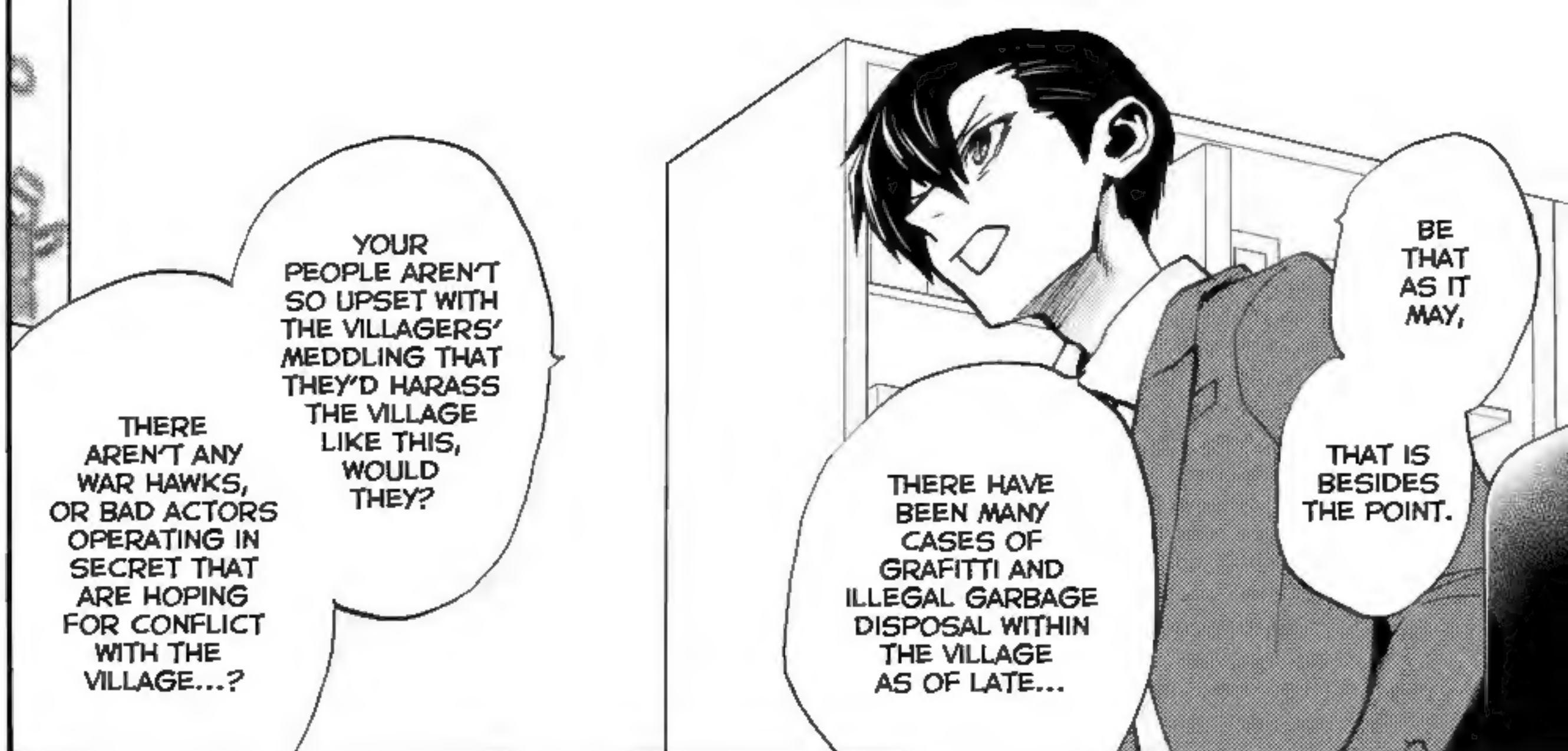
UNDERSTAND,  
THERE ARE  
TIMES IT'S  
NECESSARY FOR  
US TO DEFEND  
OURSELVES  
TO THE FULL  
EXTENT OF  
THE LAW.

I MYSELF  
DO NOT  
WISH ANY  
HARM ON  
ANYBODY  
ELSE...

HE HAS  
A VERY  
STRONG DRIVE  
TO PROTECT  
OUR FAMILY, SO  
HE CAN SOMETIMES  
BE AGGRESSIVE  
TOWARDS  
OTHERS...  
BUT, WELL...

ISSHIKI-  
SAN HERE IS A  
MEMBER OF  
POLARIS'S  
VIGILANCE  
COMMITTEE,  
THE "RING  
OF STARS,"  
AND HE HAS  
GRACIOUSLY  
TAKEN IT UPON  
HIMSELF TO  
HANDLE PUBLIC  
RELATIONS  
ON MY BEHALF.





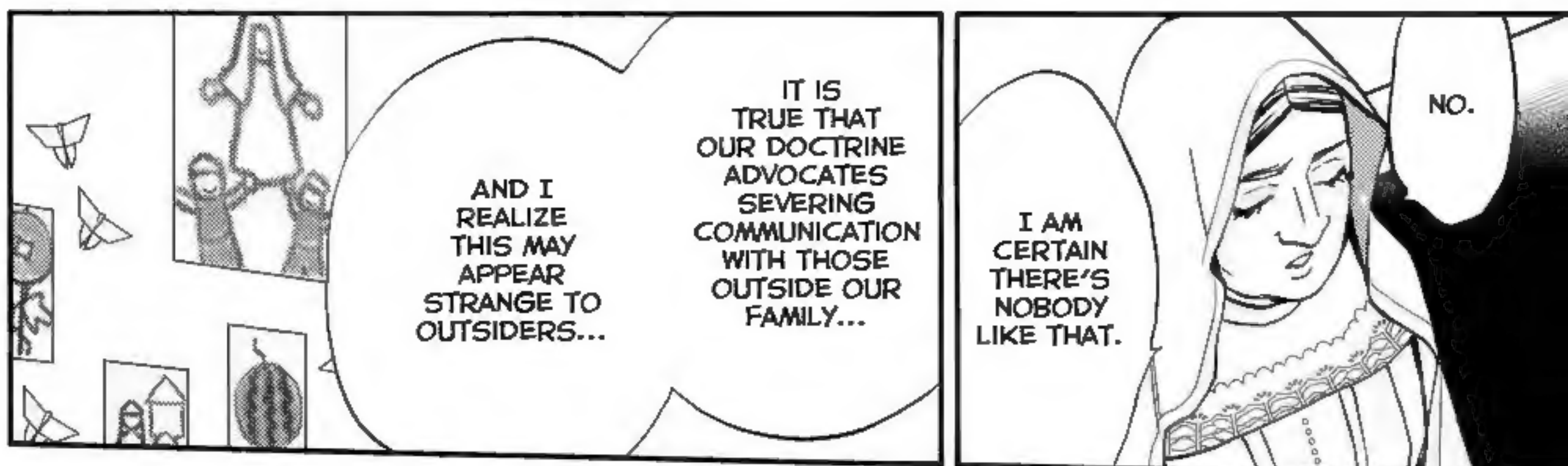
THERE  
AREN'T ANY  
WAR HAWKS,  
OR BAD ACTORS  
OPERATING IN  
SECRET THAT  
ARE HOPING  
FOR CONFLICT  
WITH THE  
VILLAGE...?

YOUR  
PEOPLE AREN'T  
SO UPSET WITH  
THE VILLAGERS'  
MEDDLING THAT  
THEY'D HARASS  
THE VILLAGE  
LIKE THIS,  
WOULD  
THEY?

THERE HAVE  
BEEN MANY  
CASES OF  
GRAFITTI AND  
ILLEGAL GARBAGE  
DISPOSAL WITHIN  
THE VILLAGE  
AS OF LATE...

THAT IS  
BESIDES  
THE POINT.

BE  
THAT  
AS IT  
MAY,



AND I  
REALIZE  
THIS MAY  
APPEAR  
STRANGE TO  
OUTSIDERS...

IT IS  
TRUE THAT  
OUR DOCTRINE  
ADVOCATES  
SEVERING  
COMMUNICATION  
WITH THOSE  
OUTSIDE OUR  
FAMILY...

I AM  
CERTAIN  
THERE'S  
NOBODY  
LIKE THAT.

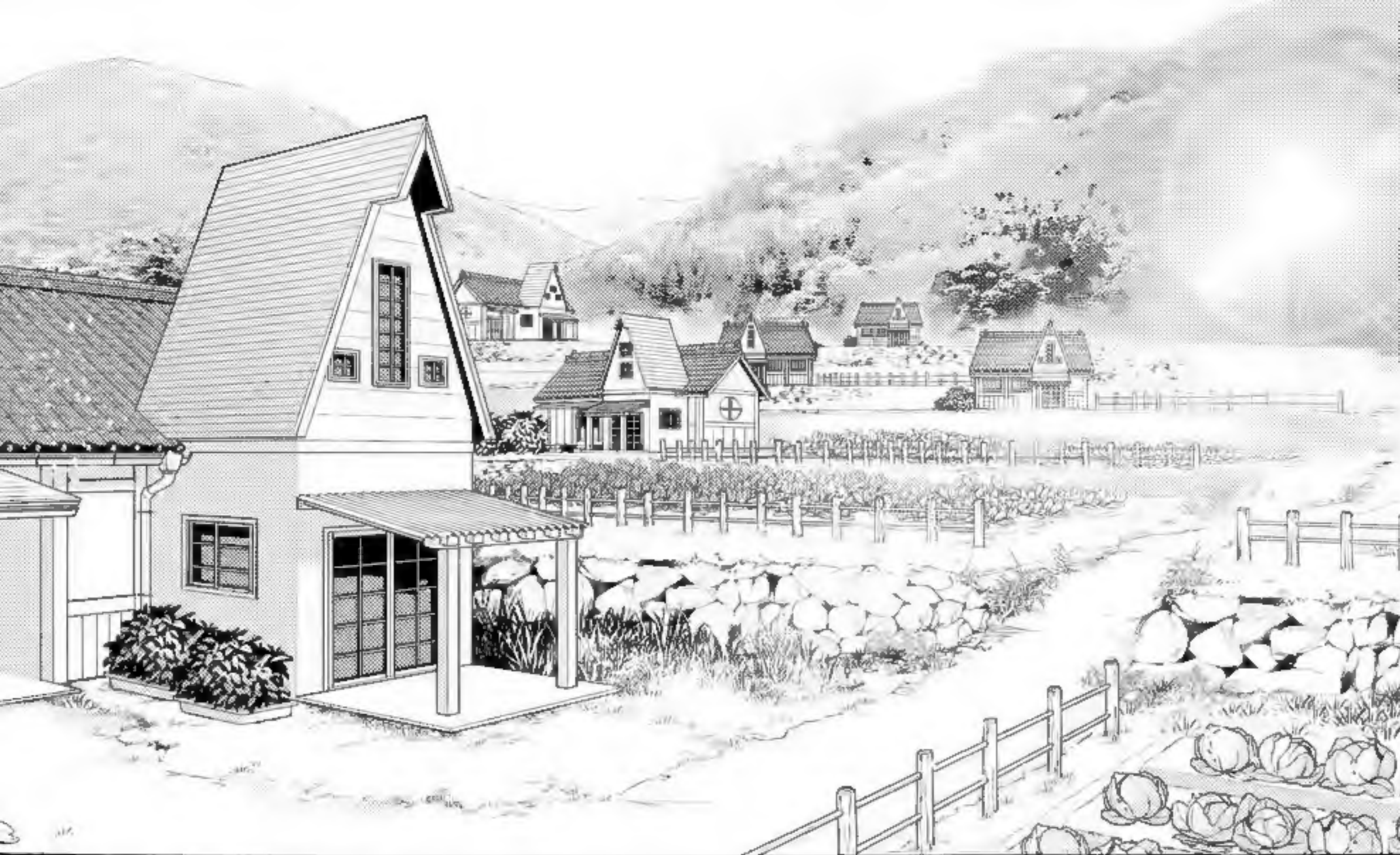
NO.



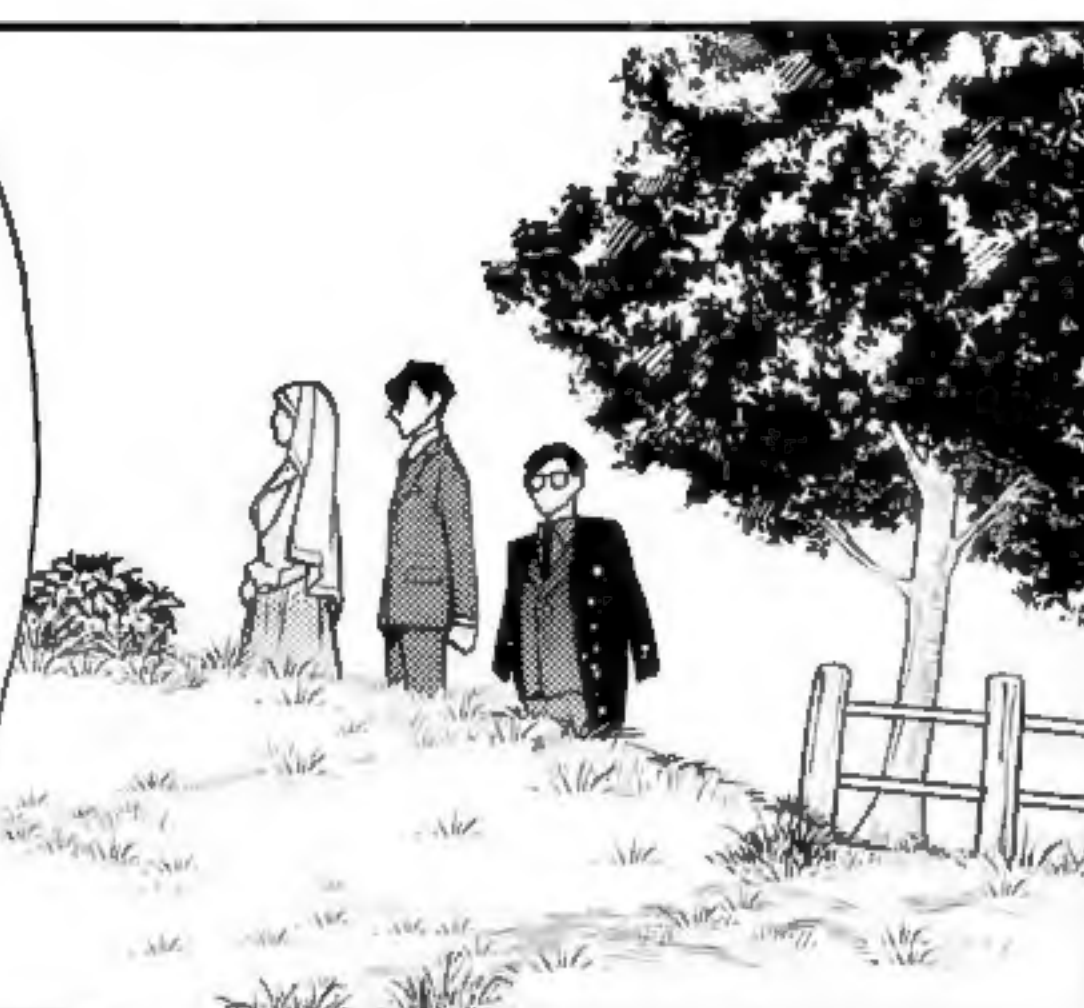
IT CAN  
BE EASILY  
MISUNDERSTOOD  
IN MANY WAYS,  
SO WOULD YOU  
MIND IF I  
EXPLAIN  
IT ONCE  
MORE?



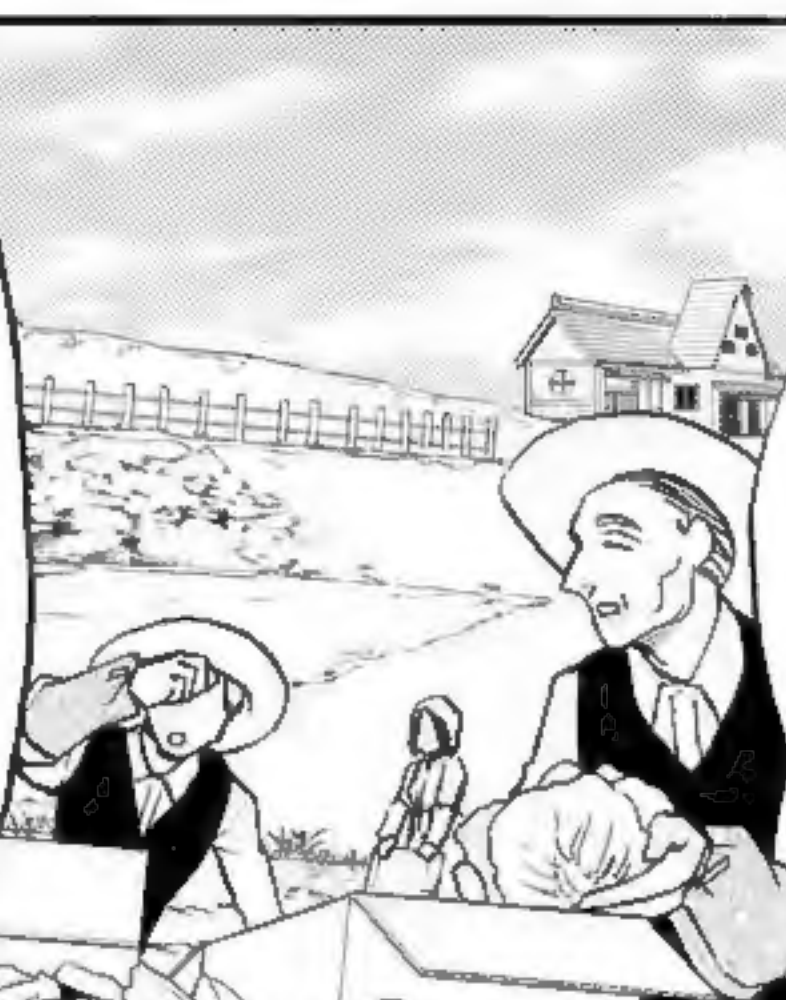




WE, THE  
POLARIS FAMILY  
SOCIETY, ARE  
AN ORGANIZATION  
FORMED FROM  
HOUSEHOLDS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
VICTIMS...

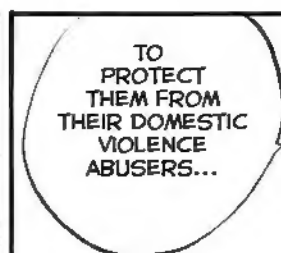
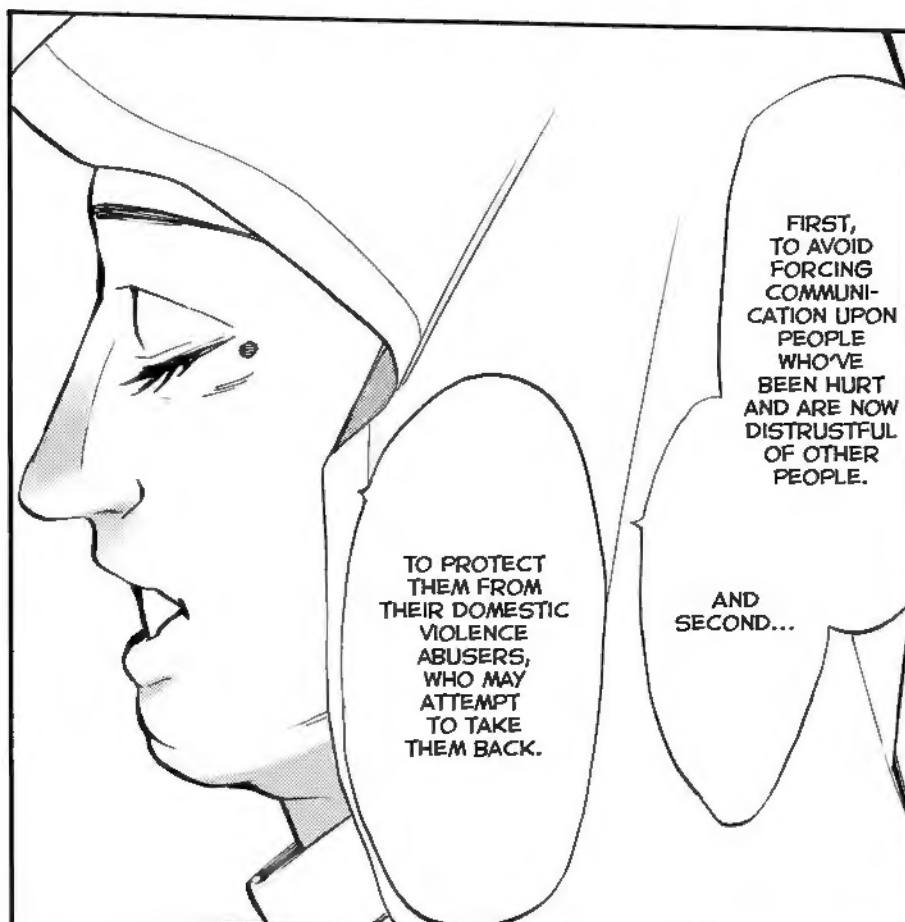


THOUGH WE TRY  
TO AVOID CONTACT  
WITH THE OUTSIDE  
WORLD TO THE  
GREATEST EXTENT  
POSSIBLE, WE CAN'T  
DENY THERE ARE ALSO  
BENEFITS TO BEING  
INVOLVED IN SOCIETY,  
SUCH AS HOSPITALS,  
AND SHOPPING...



"IT'S OKAY  
TO RUN FROM  
NEGATIVE BONDS,  
EVEN YOUR FAMILY."  
THAT IS THE  
FOUNDATION OF  
THE DOCTRINE  
WE LIVE UNDER.

"ALL  
MISFORTUNE  
COMES FROM  
BONDS THAT  
SOCIETY  
FORCES  
ON US."





ONCE AGAIN,  
ONLY BONDS  
THAT ARE  
**FORCED UPON**  
YOU ARE  
FORBIDDEN.

I SEE.

THAT RULE  
DOESN'T  
APPLY TO  
BONDS YOU  
YOURSELF  
DESIRE.

MEMBERS  
WHO'VE  
ENDURED  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
LOSE THEIR  
INDEPENDENCE,  
AND HAVE  
DIFFICULTY  
TURNING  
DOWN AN  
OVER-  
BEARINGLY  
COERCIVE  
PARTNER...

SO  
IF THEIR  
ASSAILANT  
CONTACTS  
THEM, THEY  
MIGHT EVEN SAY  
"MAYBE IT  
WAS MY  
FAULT"...  
AND GO  
BACK TO THEIR  
ABUSER...

IS  
THAT  
SO?

BUT BY  
USING OUR  
DOCTRINE  
AS A SHIELD,  
THEY CAN  
REJECT THEM  
WITHOUT  
FEELING  
GUILTY.

NO!





BUT  
THAT  
WAS  
NEVER  
THE  
CASE.

SOME OF  
THE MORE  
FAITHFUL  
SEE BONDS  
THEMSELVES  
AS EVIL...



THOUGHTFUL  
COMMUNICATION  
CAN BE A  
STEP TOWARD  
REINTEGRATION  
WITHIN SOCIETY.

ONCE  
THEIR WOUNDS  
HAVE SUFFICIENTLY  
HEALED, THEY  
ARE FREE  
TO LEAVE THE  
NEST...

THIS IS  
A PLACE IN  
WHICH THOSE  
WHO HAVE LOST  
THEIR PLACE IN  
THEIR HOUSE-  
HOLDS CAN COME  
TOGETHER...





THOUGH IN  
HINAMIZAWA,  
DISTURBING  
RUMORS  
SPREAD  
AROUND THAT  
THEY HAD  
GONE  
MISSING...

COME  
TO THINK  
OF IT, WE  
HAD ONE  
PERSON  
WHO LEFT  
AROUND  
THIS TIME  
LAST YEAR.

SO...  
THEY  
HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO  
LEAVE...?



THEY  
HAVE  
TOLD US  
THROUGH  
LETTERS  
THAT  
THEY  
ARE  
DOING  
JUST  
FINE.

IT WAS  
JUST ONE  
OF OUR  
MEMBERS  
RETURNING  
TO SOCIETY.



I'M  
SORRY FOR  
ANY TROUBLE  
THAT MAY HAVE  
CAUSED, BUT  
PLEASE DO  
NOT WORRY  
ABOUT IT.



IF I PASS  
WORD ON  
TO ALL THE  
VILLAGERS WHO  
ARE CONVINCED  
THAT POLARIS  
MOVING HERE HAD  
ANGERED OYA-  
SHIRO-SAMA,

IT  
SHOULD  
GREATLY  
SOFTEN  
THEIR  
ATTITUDE  
TOWARD  
POLARIS.

IT'S  
JUST A  
HAPPY CO-  
INCIDENCE.

THE PERSON  
WHO DIED LAST  
YEAR WAS JUST  
A VILLAGER WHO  
DIED OF ILLNESS...  
AND THE PERSON  
WHO DISAPPEARED  
WAS JUST A MEMBER  
OF POLARIS WHO LEFT  
THE ORGANIZATION  
AND IS DOING WELL

WHICH MEANS,  
THE EVENTS  
LAST YEAR WEREN'T  
THE CURSE OF  
OYASHIRO-SAMA  
AT ALL...!







# Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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